



**MARICOPA COUNTY
Superintendent of Schools**

301 W. Jefferson, 6th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

<http://www.maricopa.gov/schools>

July 12, 2004

For more information, contact **Carol Lynn Marshall** at **602-506-3662**.

FEDERAL GRANT WILL HELP 12 MARICOPA COUNTY SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS EDUCATE HISTORY TEACHERS

(Phoenix) – Maricopa County School Superintendent Dr. Sandra E. Dowling announced today that the Maricopa County Small Schools Consortium, consisting of 12 rural school districts, will be receiving a grant from the US Department of Education that will enhance the teaching of American History. The consortium will receive \$1 million which will be used to set up professional development programs for American History teachers through Project REED: Rural Education Encountering Democracy.

The Maricopa County Small Schools Consortium is a remote and rural school district consortium in western Arizona with limited resources and few teachers trained to teach American history. To remedy this situation, the consortium will partner with its educational and professional development association, Facing History and Ourselves, as well as Pueblo Grande Museum and Arizona State University to offer Project REED.

Only 122 school districts were awarded the Teaching American History grant in 41 states, the Small Schools Consortium was the only one in Arizona to receive this funding. "I believe that the strong commitment of President Bush and Secretary Paige to education through the extreme infusion of No Child Left Behind has facilitated our efforts of educating all children in Maricopa County, including the children from our rural areas" Dowling said.

Mary Jane T. Pearson, Regional Representative from the US Department of Education will be in Phoenix to present the grant award to the Maricopa County Small Schools Consortium during a press conference scheduled for 11:00 AM on Friday, July 16, 2004. The press conference will be held at the Phoenix Museum of History located at 105 N 5th Street in Phoenix.

MEDIA NOTES (*Media wishing to interview the teachers benefiting from the grant should contact Carol Lynn Marshall at 602-506-3662. Arrangements can be made for interviews and taping during the press conference on Friday, July 16, 2004.*)

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